

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 EB-07

SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

SIL-01 COA-01 FMC-01 DOTE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /095 W

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R 150454Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS: AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND NOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJ: WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO CHILE BANNED

1. MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE WRIEDT TODAY ADVISED AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD THAT GOA COULD NOT ASSIST IN LIFTING OF UNION BANS TO LOAD WHEAT VESSELS FOR CHILE. DURING PAST YEAR WATERSIDE WORKERS AND MARITIME UNIONS HAVE IMPOSED BANS ON WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO CHILE BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO NEW GOVERNMENT. DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1974 THESE BANS WERE LIFTED AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNIONS, THE AWB AND THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE 1974 CONTRACTS FOR ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF WHEAT WERE ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED WITH THE ALLENDE REGIME. HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME THE UNIONS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NOT AGREE

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TO HANDLING NEW CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED WITH THE PRESENT GOC.

2. THE 1974 CONTRACTS HAVE NOW BEEN FULLY SHIPPED (399,152 M.T.), AND AS USUAL AN AWB DELEGATION IS LEAVING AUSTRALIA AT THE END OF THIS MONTH TO NEGOTIATE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTRACTS FOR 1975. THE GROUP WILL CONSIST OF GENERAL MANAGER DORMAN, ASST. GENERAL MANAGER CHAPMAN, AND GROWER MEMBER NUSKE, AND BEFORE MAKING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS DORMAN MADE APPROACH TO GAO TO MAKE CERTAIN CHILEAN CARGOES WOULD BE HANDLED. DELEGATION WILL VISIT PERU, COLOMBIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WILL STILL INCLUDE SANTIAGO ON ITINERARY, MAINLY TO EXPLAIN SITUATION AND MAKE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GOODWILL.

3. MINISTER WRIEDT HAS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY STRONGLY OPPOSES INTRUSION OF UNIONS INTO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY, BUT IT IS CLEAR GOA PRESENTLY NOT PREPARED TO CONFRONT COMMUNIST-LED MARITIME AND WATERFRONT UNIONS. CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MINISTER AND HAWKE, PRESIDENT OF ACTU, INDICATE THAT TIME NOT RIPE FOR STRONG GOA STAND AND POLITICALLY LOW KEY APPROACH NOW PREFERABLE. HAWKE APPARENTLY BELIEVES SOFTENING ATTITUDE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS LIKELY OVER COMING YEAR. IN MEANTIME, AWB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US AND CANADA WILL SUPPLY THE VOLUME NORMALLY SUPPLIED BY AUSTRALIA DURING THE COMING YEAR. FROM THE LONG TERM POINT OF VIEW THE AWB IS SOMEWHAT FEARFUL THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS COULD LEAD TO PERMANENT LOSS OF THE MARKER.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, LONGSHOREMEN, EMBARGOES, LABOR UNIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER00321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0108
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750151/aaaabsry.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO CHILE BANNED
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS, CI, AWB-AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD, (WRIEDT, KENNETH S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006